

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,  
3 represented in the General Assembly:

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Section  
5 2-3.131 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/2-3.131 new)

7 Sec. 2-3.131. Prekindergarten program.

8 (a) The State Board of Education shall develop  
9 guidelines for and administer a prekindergarten program. The  
10 program shall be available each school year on a voluntary  
11 basis to all children who are 4 years of age on September 1  
12 and whose parents are residents of this State.

13 (b) The school readiness goal of the program shall be to  
14 provide a developmentally appropriate preschool program  
15 emphasizing growth in each of the following areas:

16 (1) Language and literacy, with activities for  
17 children participating in the program including without  
18 limitation understanding and telling stories, recognizing  
19 pictures, words, and stories, recognizing the alphabet,  
20 and understanding that writing is communication.

21 (2) Math concepts, with activities for children  
22 participating in the program including without limitation  
23 counting and sorting objects into groups, recognizing  
24 shapes, and making comparisons of size, shape, length,  
25 and weight.

26 (3) Science, with activities for children  
27 participating in the program including without limitation  
28 exploring the natural environment, observing seasonal  
29 changes, communicating observations, and using measuring  
30 tools.

31 (4) Arts, with activities for children

1 participating in the program including without limitation  
2 expressing ideas and thoughts in creative ways, painting,  
3 drawing, and sculpting, listening to music and singing  
4 songs, and recognizing colors.

5 (5) Physical development, with activities for  
6 children participating in the program including without  
7 limitation moving with balance and coordination,  
8 participating in indoor and outdoor physical activities,  
9 and using writing tools, puzzles, scissors, blocks, clay,  
10 and computers.

11 (6) Personal and social competence, with activities  
12 for children participating in the program including  
13 without limitation playing and working cooperatively,  
14 following classroom rules, and interacting positively  
15 with other children.

16 (c) Goals for parents whose children are in the program  
17 shall include without limitation actively participating in  
18 the child's education, understanding the correlation between  
19 home environment and school success, and being aware of  
20 available community resources.

21 (d) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules  
22 necessary to carry out its responsibilities under this  
23 Section.